

THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE

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TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION. Daily and Sunday. By carrier. By mail. Per month. Per year.

REMITTANCE. Remit by draft, express or postal order. Only two-cent postage stamps received in payment of small accounts.

OFFICES. Omaha—The Bee Building. Council Bluffs—214 North Main street. Lincoln—76 Little Building.

CORRESPONDENCE. Address communications relating to news and editorial matter to Omaha Bee, Editorial Department.

JANUARY SUNDAY CIRCULATION. 47,925

State of Nebraska, County of Douglas, ss.: Dwight Williams, circulation manager, says that the average Sunday circulation for the month of January, 1916, was 47,925.

Subscribers leaving the city temporarily should have The Bee mailed to them. Address will be changed as often as requested.

Not a very good day for libel suits at either end of the line.

Still, the ordinary officeholder cannot help admiring the efficiency of a reformer's nerve in putting over a fee grab.

If the Persians are doing any fighting for health and home, war bulletins are painfully slow in spreading the news.

Talking about protesting against an investigation into perjury and subornation of perjury, it is the hit bird that flutters.

Commission government is stamped as a failure in Memphis. Changing the name does not alter the internal working of a political machine.

As the primary race develops new colors and prospects, the brighter grows the certainty that entrants will get the exercise and the spectators the fun.

One of the things Omaha needs, and needs badly, is some effective way of running a bunch of contingent-fee hold-up lawyers out of town or making them walk the straight path.

Our coming long ballot object-lesson may be counted on to stimulate the short-ballot movement, for Nebraska again stands to capture the blue ribbon for the longest long ballot on record.

Strange as it may seem, the discovery of the kingly descent of Yuan Shi Kai has not impressed Chinese rebels sufficiently to stop shooting up the country and disturbing the sleep of royal ancestors.

An oratorical exhibit of Henry Estabrook's "pons asinorum" in Missouri won applause when it was explained that no reflection on the native mule was intended.

A more reasonable time could hardly have been chosen for a convention of eye specialists. An urgent demand for clearer vision on primary prospects applauds the wisdom of preparedness for the rush.

By all means let us have W. J. Bryan in the delegate primary race. In these days of ghost dancing harmony democrats are entitled to exercise their habit of voting for William. Besides the party needs leadership that leads.

War debts of Great Britain, Germany and France already aggregate \$20,000,000,000, and more to come. By keeping these figures in mind the coming American tourist can gauge the size of his contribution when peace returns.

Dealers in footwear and clothes caution consumers to prepare for an advance in prices. The announcement of a reduction in necessities promises to be the biggest surprise of the year, but the prospect is a poor sporting proposition.

Help Where It Does Good. One really practical work undertaken by some Omaha women will receive the commendation it deserves as the public becomes better acquainted with its purposes and processes.

That the rights of neutrals to travel and to traffic between themselves and with belligerents is not to be abridged, because of the introduction of the submarine warfare, is made clear by the speech of Senator Lodge in the senate, dealing with the topic. The effort to re-write international law to govern the point has been abandoned, and it will be insisted that the law governing the sea for two centuries be still observed.

The situation is critical, but not impossible of solution, and it met with firmness neutral rights will get recognition so far ignored by the belligerents on both sides. Official correspondence shows that Villa was dissuaded from extorting \$300,000 from an American company in Mexico, and was satisfied with a contribution of 100,000 tons of coal.

This is the purpose of the vocational guidance committee of the Associated Collegiate Alumnae, which is not a "high brow" organization. It has been so modestly promulgated that as yet few know of it, but it holds great possibilities for genuine service.

That Libel Suit.

As a rule the public is not interested in private litigation, particularly in libel suits brought against a newspaper. But there is more in the suit which has just resulted in a handsome vindication of The Bee than the mere effort to mulct this paper in damages, which we believe justifies the more than customary space we have devoted to the trial.

This suit, let it be known, was instituted by a pair of shady characters only as one of a series brought by them, through their lawyers, aggregating \$60,000 in claimed damages growing out of their arrest in connection with the loss of a diamond for which they paid the owner before being turned loose. The two suits against The Bee for \$20,000 each were not instituted until a year after the arrest, the suit against the chief of police of Council Bluffs until a year after the alleged maltreatment of plaintiff, and the suit against the Council Bluffs jeweler until a week before the statute of limitations would have run.

It is plain that the law suits started by these irresponsible were never intended to be tried, but were brought in the hope of securing, by settlement, some easy money to be divided with their attorneys, who had already filed contingent-fee liens on the hoped-for judgments. The Bee could doubtless have settled these suits for much less than it has cost us to fight them, but if fighting them and showing up the system of shake-down law suits now permitted to flourish through misuse of our judicial machinery, puts a stop to such practices, the money will be well spent.

So long as this system of legal blackmail continues unchecked, no one against whom a judgment can be collected is safe from fake damage suits instigated by slyster lawyers. This suit of The Bee's has taken the lid off of a scandalous condition which the reputable lawyers of this city should join with us in remedying.

Wonder Story of the Automobile. The rise of the automobile business in the United States is the most remarkable industrial development of our time. Considered in its main aspects of invested capital, manufacturing, salesmanship, pleasure-giving and general utility, the claim is not overstated. It has grown in popular favor far more rapidly than the telephone, and rivalled the moving picture business in speed of conquest.

Twenty-five years ago the steam automobile was as much of a curiosity as the telephone was ten years previous. Ungainly in appearance and clumsy in build, it attracted little attention and was swamped in the prevailing bicycle craze. As the latter died away the automobile, equipped with the gas motor, rose to its opportunity and presently compelled public attention by its merits and possibilities. Even as late as 1903 only 11,000 automobiles were produced in this country.

While the industry is rated to have begun in 1895, its real forward movement is embraced within ten years, and the actual boom began with the standardization of machine parts in 1910. The magnitude of the business now taxes the resources of 795 factories, 27,700 sale shops, supply stores and repair shops; consumes 900,000,000 gallons of oil and 12,000,000 rubber tires annually. Not only is the United States the largest producer of automobiles; it is the largest consumer, having a total of 2,400,000 cars in use, or 77 per cent of the world's total. Of this number 59,140 are registered in Nebraska.

The potential factors in this wonder story of development are three in number: High quality of cars, salesmanship and advertising, an invincible triple alliance, as results show. Stronger support is being arrayed behind the case for the neutrals in the matter of rights on the high seas, and belligerent impositions are likely to be curbed to some extent. The note from the king of Sweden, asking for more active assistance in making effective protests against British interference with the mails, came at a time when the United States is vigorously contending against the German program for submarine warfare. The United States has been hindered in its dealings with Great Britain by the German attitude, and will not for the present be able to go into details on the complaint from Sweden. That matter will not be put aside, however, longer than is required to come to a definite understanding with the German imperial government as to the scope of the submarine activities.

That the rights of neutrals to travel and to traffic between themselves and with belligerents is not to be abridged, because of the introduction of the submarine warfare, is made clear by the speech of Senator Lodge in the senate, dealing with the topic. The effort to re-write international law to govern the point has been abandoned, and it will be insisted that the law governing the sea for two centuries be still observed. To submit to the German proposals at this time would not only be abandoning recognized rights, but would also be unnatural, as granting to one belligerent something that is denied another.

The situation is critical, but not impossible of solution, and it met with firmness neutral rights will get recognition so far ignored by the belligerents on both sides. Official correspondence shows that Villa was dissuaded from extorting \$300,000 from an American company in Mexico, and was satisfied with a contribution of 100,000 tons of coal. At the current price of steam coal it is evident that Villa allowed very little discount for prompt delivery.

The river and harbor bill carries a total of \$40,000,000, in round figures, of which \$1,775,000 is booked for the Missouri river. At a distance of a thousand miles it is impossible to detect the odor of fried bacon, certainly not in the Missouri river's slice. The change of place. First National bank began today the fixtures being moved across the street preparatory to the building of a new building. The removal of the safe required the services of a small army of men with ropes and pulleys.

In self-protection against the new organization of city constables, the constables outside of the city met at Wolf's hall at Twenty-fourth and Cuming streets, and formed a Douglas County association, with J. H. Rustin as president and F. W. Kyle secretary. They will form a hard pool against the justice shops.

Special Policeman James of the Law and Order league sports a new star made especially for him. Alderman Casey of Peoria, Ill., is in Omaha a few days investigating Omaha's system of fire alarms and other public works.

A person with a good second-hand typewriter can dispose of it to J. H. Haines & Co. Eggs on the Omaha market at wholesaling at 17 to 18 cents and creamery butter at 30 cents, with country butter only half that price.

Views, Reviews and Interviews

BY VICTOR ROSEWATER.

I HAVE been spending most of the week in connection with a libel suit brought against The Bee by a pair arrested for stealing a diamond ring, for which they afterwards paid in order to get away without prosecution. I have had cases in court from time to time, as must every newspaper man fearless enough to tell the truth and to refuse to submit to a shake-down, and I must say that this trial was conducted in the best order of any of them, except possibly in being long-drawn out. Credit for this belongs in large part to Judge Graves, coming in from Pender to take the place of Judge English, whose impressive manner and wide-awake conduct on the bench may well be an example for some of our own judges, and, mind you, I am writing this before the verdict is in regardless of what it may be. The judge showed that cross-table talk and vocal waste of time by the lawyers can be stopped without much difficulty. It was amusing to hear him declare that while that might be the custom here in the city, it was not tolerated "up in the country where I come from, with the further ironical suggestion that "perhaps time is more valuable up there than it is here in Omaha."

I can't help seeing, however, whenever I am in court, things that seem calculated to clog rather than expedite the wheels of justice. In the impaneling of the jury, for example, the attorneys for each side examine the jurors one at a time, propounding many of the same questions to which the answers are more or less identical. Why could not all this stock information about where a juror resides, how long he has lived here, his present and previous occupation and all that be given under oath once and for all time and completed immediately, so that the attorneys would have it before coming into court? And why could and should not the judge himself ask the jurors, all together, the customary questions about knowing the parties to the suit or their attorneys, or being prejudiced against any of them? If this were done at the beginning, it would materially reduce the time consumed in getting a jury and in no way deprive any one of any rights.

When it comes to the testimony of the witnesses, the outsider cannot but see that the accepted rules of evidence keep out much that the jury ought to know. If the whole inception and inside of this particular case, as we know it, could be paraded before the jury, the collapse would have come almost at the beginning. But "hear-say" testimony is not admissible—not in the face of objection by alert lawyers.

During his closing argument Attorney Brome made this statement with great earnestness: "I have come into this case, as has been said here, at a late hour because, and only because, I was convinced that the cause of this poor woman was just." When he said that I could scarcely keep my face straight. The original attorneys in the case evidently took it on a contingent fee contract, for they filed liens of \$5,000 on the property. It happens that Harris, dissatisfied in the same way, went to another lawyer only a week or two ago and sought to engage him to help out in the trial, offering an inducement of \$200 real money, payment down. This lawyer did not see his way clear to take the retainer and then Brome appeared for the Harrises in court "solely because convinced that the cause of this poor woman was just."

While sitting there, I also wondered what would have happened if J. C. Graves had been present in court when these cases first came up, for there were two of them, one brought in the name of the man and the other in the name of the woman, and one of them had been set by stipulation for trial last November. When the day arrived and we were ready for our numerous witnesses, the attorney for the plaintiffs raised a terrific rumpus over the stipulation, insisting vociferously that it was for the woman's case and that he was there to try her case, but not the man's case, although the two were substantially identical. The judge then sitting said the best way to settle that question was to verify the stipulation, which he did, finding it to be for the man's case, but rather than try it, the attorney dismissed it himself to get away from his own agreement. Thereupon we announced to the court that we were ready to try the woman's case, she being present, and as it afterwards turned out the only witness on her side, but her attorney, who a few moments before, was clamoring to try that very case, now was just as outspoken that he was not ready to try it and would not try it. No other case was set for hearing at that time, but under the circumstances, the judge declared he was helpless to require them to proceed, and all the witnesses who had been assembled from Omaha and Council Bluffs had to be sent back. I was wondering whether Judge Graves, under those circumstances, would likewise have said he was helpless against such practices.

I want to congratulate Brother Frank A. Kennedy as editor of The Western Laborer on the twenty-fifth anniversary of that sprightly weekly, which now has a record of longevity matched by few, if any, labor papers. The special number he has gotten out in honor of the event is more than creditable and makes plain the pertinent fact that the change in the condition of labor in Omaha wrought by the last twenty-five years may surpasses the wildest dreams of the day when The Laborer made its initial appearance. It is my fervent wish, not only that The Laborer and its editor make the same progress for another twenty-five years, but that every time the balance sheet on the condition of the working classes here is struck it may show like progress at even faster rate.

Twice Told Tales

Would Complete the Set. A lady told me, as a true story of a soldier's wit, that a soldier in a hospital on recovering consciousness said: "Nurse, what is this on my head?" "Vinegar cloths," she replied. "You have had fever." After a pause: "And what is this on my chest?" "A mustard plaster. You have had pneumonia." "And what is this at my feet?" "Salt bags. You have had frost bite." A soldier from the next bed looked up and said: "Hang a pepper box to his nose, nurse, then he will be a crust."—Chicago News.

Thirty Years Ago This Day in Omaha

Compiled from Bee Files. The change of place. First National bank began today the fixtures being moved across the street preparatory to the building of a new building. The removal of the safe required the services of a small army of men with ropes and pulleys. In self-protection against the new organization of city constables, the constables outside of the city met at Wolf's hall at Twenty-fourth and Cuming streets, and formed a Douglas County association, with J. H. Rustin as president and F. W. Kyle secretary. They will form a hard pool against the justice shops. Special Policeman James of the Law and Order league sports a new star made especially for him. Alderman Casey of Peoria, Ill., is in Omaha a few days investigating Omaha's system of fire alarms and other public works. A person with a good second-hand typewriter can dispose of it to J. H. Haines & Co. Eggs on the Omaha market at wholesaling at 17 to 18 cents and creamery butter at 30 cents, with country butter only half that price. Herman Kountze is home again from the south. Captain John O'Donahoe returned to Omaha from a two months' trip to Ireland and England.

SECULAR SHOTS AT PULPIT.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: A Syracuse (N. Y.) preacher has gone to New York (N. Y.) for the purpose of making the latter town dry. What a beautiful thing faith is, after all! Pittsburgh Dispatch: "Are Dead Men Alive" is the theme of a Pittsburgh minister's sermon. However that may be, several could be pointed out who are mooting around unmindful of the fact they're dead.

Boston Transcript: The celebration February 11 of the eightieth birthday of Rev. Dr. Washington Gladden may be regarded as rather more than a milestone in the life of the venerable divine and author. His country has moved along actually more closely associated with the development of American religious, social and civic thought than Dr. Gladden. No one has preached to a wider congregation, and no man's thoughts have found a wider appreciation or come into more immediate or complete sympathy with the American aspirations.

Brooklyn Eagle: The poor pay of the more obscure clergymen of all denominations has long been a matter of reproach to the churches, if not, in the case of the wealthier denominations, a scandal. The condition arose in the most creditable way possible, from the eagerness of clergymen to fulfill the command to preach the gospel to every creature. But with the increased wealth of the general church membership it is improved, and the Episcopalians have undertaken to remedy the worst of them, the poverty-stricken and dependent old age of clergymen who have given their lives to such small charges. A pension system has been worked out, under which each parish will be assessed 1 per cent of its ministerial salary for the fund. This will provide for the retirement of a clergyman at 65 year, for pensions for his widow and minor children at his death, and for himself before 65, in case he is disabled.

BRIEF BITS OF SCIENCE.

The human body only weighs one pound in the water. In Germany and Austria post baths have equal in established institutions within the last few years. The rivers of the earth carry 4,000 cubic miles of water into the sea each year. This means a column ten miles square and sixty-five miles high. The limit of the carrying power of thunder is about fifteen miles, while thirty miles is not regarded as far for the sound of a big battle to travel. According to a Finnish scientist, the air around pine trees is purer than that around others, because their needles disseminate electricity into the atmosphere and ozone it. An English scientist believes that, if the radium in the interior of the earth is equal in quantity to that in the surface rocks, the world will grow hotter in time instead of colder. Starfish can grow new arms, lobsters new claws, and lizards new tails. A new lizard will not indeed spring from a tail, or a new lobster from a discarded claw, but a new starfish will grow from a detached arm. A fly on a window pane will crawl to the top, fly back to the bottom and crawl up again. This order is seldom reversed. It is on record that a fly crawled up a window pane thirty-two times, returning each time a-wing. By teaching firemen to handle coal scientifically, a Hamburg society with more than 500 members aims to produce the highest possible efficiency from steam boilers with the least possible emission of smoke.

OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

The man who discovered Pike's Peak said that it would never be climbed. Today the topmost point is accessible to automobiles. The meeting house in Bolton, Mass., is to be rehung for the first time since its erection in 1793. Some of the shingles are still in a perfect state of preservation after 121 years' service.

Lloyd's of London have recently issued a form of insurance against appendicitis. The claims have become so numerous that Lloyd's have found it necessary to double their premiums. Records of the United States pension office show the total death toll of veterans since the close of the war has been 1,316,996. In that period the federal government has paid to veterans, their widows and children \$4,614,443,267.

Hoolock, a lone-some monkey in the Central Park zoo, New York, was miserable until the curator conceived the idea of taking photographic records of his winning chatter. Now Hoolock listens to his own talk, thinks he has a companion and is perfectly happy.

Each with a theoretical \$50, girls of the home economics class at Whitman college, Walla Walla, Wash., started out to buy furniture and household supplies for a house of six rooms. The class visited stores of the city and then made out the list. They endeavored to be as economical as possible, but found that \$500 hard to stretch over six rooms.

AROUND THE CITIES.

Denver's public library and branches loaned 714,530 books last year. Louisville is in the thick of a bustling campaign for the wherewith to build a \$200,000 auditorium.

Work is to start on the county court house at Sioux City next week. The contract price for the building is \$466,308. In proportion to population of the cities, Cleveland has the largest number of telephones and New Orleans the fewest.

Bostonians using a new invention, the scillograph, the other day were able to hear the surf beating on the rocks at Golden Gate, San Francisco.

Minneapolis is about to put on the market bonds totaling \$1,000,000, the proceeds to be devoted to new schools, park improvements and other city projects.

St. Joe on the Missouri is already hustling for the \$50,000 to cinch a federal appropriation of a like sum to keep the river from breaking into Lake Contrary.

Des Moines gets the biggest boost of all cities in the state census. The city is given a population of 106,623 in 1915, a gain of 23 per cent over the federal census of 1910. Spokane's Civil Service commission, after debating the type of woman best suited for police work, settled upon those requirements: Height, between five feet and five feet ten inches; age limit 25 years; weight between 115 and 300 pounds; the latter figure being necessary to insure "large, queasily shape."

People and Events.

Linoleum is pushing to the front as a substitute for leather in the warring countries. Although it will continue under foot the price will take the elevator. Statistics from a fashionable eastern woman's college, intended to refute the charge of extravagance, show individual expenses ranging from \$50 to \$1,500, or an average of \$70, which isn't much considering the aviation of living cost.

City Chamberlain Henry Bruere of New York City regards his job as superfluous and sent in his resignation to take effect May 1. The job pays \$12,000 a year. Gotham politicians consider Bruere best fitted for a place in the Metropolitan museum.

The strong-arm squad of the professional beggars of New York is a real live institution. Two of the squad jumped on a citizen who had refused them money and beat him up. But he had the wit to stay with them until the police took them in.

The most effective example of preparedness brought to light since preparedness captured Uncle Sam's goat was pulled off in Alabama. A convict escaped from a train, taking with him the key to handcuffs, the warden's clothes, a revolver and \$70 of his guard's money.

A reminder of the late F. Augustus Heinze, the noted ex-king of Butte, Mont., comes from New York in the form of an affirmed judgment for \$1,294,402.33 awarded Edwin Gouff against the Heinze estate. The judgment represents the price of bank stock purchased on credit by Heinze when he broke into the banking game in New York ten years ago.

The bright particular star of the county board of Cook county which means Chicago, is the Hon. Barney Grogan. Barney is somewhat shy as a vocalist, but he shines otherwise. "I ain't much of a speaker," he explained to a crowd of admirers, "but I'm pretty smooth with the clubs." Thereupon he swung the Indian clubs with all the skill of an expert and won more applause than a professional speller.

WHITTLED TO A POINT.

Why is it that so few married women have the gum habit? If you stand up for yourself others can't sit down on you. The Portuguese language is used by about 30,000,000 persons. Brotherly love as practiced by most men isn't even platonic. A man would rather be last than first in a funeral procession. Politicians are always trying to save the country—at its own expense. Some men no sooner get a job than they begin to kick for a day off. No woman can wear a new dress without in some way advertising its newness. Job was a patient man who never had occasion to telephone when the line was busy. As a money-getter the self-made man may not class with the machine-made politician. Tact is what a woman uses who can propose to a man in such a way that he believes he did it himself. A student of human nature says that many a man becomes a loafer because he is too light for heavy work and too heavy for light work.—Chicago News.

DOMESTIC PLEASANTRIES.

"Go!" said the girl. "I wash my hands of you." "Before you do any hand-washing, better take off that ring I gave you," he retorted, frigidly.—Boston Transcript.

"Brevity is the soul of wit," observed the sage. "Maybe," replied the fool, "but I never feel very witty when I am short."—Milwaukee Sentinel.

"How did Crimmon Gulch happen to vote for prohibition?" "Well," replied Three Finger Sam, "so many of the boys got tired of own money to the saloons that they thought the best thing to do was to put 'em out of business."—Washington Star.

"Is this land rich?" asked the prospective purchaser, cautiously. "Well," replied the gentleman-farmer, "I have put all the money I had into it."—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Mrs. Flubdub certainly played up her party for all it was worth. "How now?" "She announced that she was going to give it, she announced that she did give it, with a list of guests. Now her little daughter tells all about it in a letter to the 'Children's page.'"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"Who is this Miss Chiselidne Flubdub who sends in an account of some affair?" "I've never heard her in society." "Well, say she's a decided favorite in the circle in which she moves."—Pittsburgh Post.

At a domestic economy lesson in Chicago a young matron was asked by the lecturer to state briefly the best way to keep milk from souring. "After some reflection the young woman replied: 'Leave it in the cow.'"—New York Times.

A WOMAN'S SHORTCOMINGS.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning. She has laughed softly as if she sighed. She has counted six, and over. Of a purse well filled and a heart well tried— Oh, each a worthy lover! They "serve her time," for her soul must all be given. Where the world has set the grooving; She will lie to none with her fair red lips. But love seeks truer loving. She trembles her fan in sweetness dumb. As her thoughts were beyond recalling. With a glance for one and a glance for some. From her eyelids rising and falling. Speaks common words with a bashful air. Hears bold words, unimproving; But her silence says—what she never will swear— And love seeks better loving. Go, lady! lean to the night guitar. And drop a smile to the bringer; Then smile as sweetly when he is far. At the voice of an indoor singer. Back, tenderly beneath tender eyes. Glance lightly, on their removing; And join new vows to old perjuries— But dare not call it loving! Unless you can think, when the song is done. No other is soft in the rhythm; Unless you can feel, when left by One. That all men else go with him; Unless you can know, when upraised by his breath. That your beauty itself wants proving; Unless you can swear, "For life, for death, Oh, fear to call it loving! Unless you can muse in a crowd all day On the absent face that fixed you; Unless you can hope, as the angels may. With the breadth of heaven betwixt you; Unless you can dream that his faith is fast. Through behaving and unbehaving; Unless you can die when the dream is past. Oh, never call it loving!

Advertisement for Packard "Twin-Six" car. Features a circular logo with a woman and child, and text: "TOWN DRIVING in a Packard 'TWIN-SIX' is distinguished by a superior comfort and security." Describes the car's features and mentions Orr Motor Sales Company.

Advertisement for Woodmen of the World insurance. Text: "How Do You Know How long you will be insurable? Why not let the Woodmen of the World Relieve your mind by issuing a Certificate in favor of your wife and babies? NO CHARGE for explanation." Includes contact information for J. T. Yates and W. A. Fraser.